WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New Trains on New Delhi-Nizamuddin-Nagpur sector

*285. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce new trains on the New Delhi-Nizamuddin-Nagpur sector so that benefits start accruing to the people of the region early; and

(b) if so, the new trains proposed and the schedule of their introduction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed in the Railway Budget 2001-2002 to introduce New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Express (Weekly) and Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express (Weekly) with stoppages at Nagpur after making necessary arrangements in this regard.

Railway freight traffic

*286. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have decided to take various measures to woo back freight traffic which, over the years, has gradually shifted to the roadways;

(b) whether the Railways have set a target of 500 million tonnes for 2001-2002 fiscal year;

(c) if so, to what extent this target is being achieved; and

(d) the measures initiated by the Railways to improve the railways freight which has been going down during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As against a target of 120.50 million tones for the 1st quarter of

fical year 2001-2002 *i.e.* from April 2001 to June 2001, Railways have carried 117.13 million tonnes of freight traffic as compared to 116.61 million tonnes during the same period of last year.

(d) Some of the measures initiated by the Railways to improve the railways freight include:

Bulk Traffic:

Special care to premier customers, freight rebate on incremental traffic, Station-to-Station rates, setting up of rail terminal by private entrepreneurs, setting up of warehousing facility near rail terminals, special lumpsum rates for movement in merry-go-round circuit over short stretches, launching the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) to provide real-time information to customers, running timetabled freight trains, etc.

Non-Bulk Traffic:

Attention to Multimodal traffic through Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), Leasing out Brake Vans in passenger trains, leasing out Parcel Vans, introduction of Chartered Parcel Express etc.

Rail Reservation

†*287. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to entrust rail reservation work to other persons;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) the main reasons to entrust reservation work to others;

(d) whether Government have also formulated any scheme to take co-operation of private sector institutions for the sale of rail tickets; if

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.